Software Exports from NEPZ

2952. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that software exports from the Noida Export Processing Zones (NEPZ) have registered a higher growth rate during the last financial year (1998-99);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the major companies; which achieved the higher export growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Software exports from Noida Export Processing Zone (NEPZ) has increased from Rs. 99.39 crores during 1997-98 to Rs. 148.58 crores during 1998-99, registering growth rate of 49.5%.

(c) The major companies which achieved higher export growth rate are M/s. Tata Infotech Ltd., M/s. Cadence design Systems(I) Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Metamor Global Solutions, M/s. Interra Software, and M/s. River Run Software Group.

Export and Import growth in dollar terms

2953. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Export and Import growth in dollar term was 1.1% and 5.5% respectively for 1998-99;

(b) whether these results were below the expected targets laid down in the last budget; and

(c) what are the reasons for the failure to achieve our targets?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) As per the provision DGCI and S data Indian exports during April-February, 1998-99 after taking into account late returns registered a growth of 1.56% in US$ terms over the same period last year. Imports during this period grew by 8.10% as compared to the same period last year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The deceleration of exports is mainly due to South East Asian crisis, world recession and fall in unit value of our exports.

Decline in Exports growth

2954. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports growth has been hit due to bureaucratic bottle necks and poor infrastructure; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to overcome these problems?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Export growth in the recent past has been affected primarily due to slower growth in world trade and economic problems faced by some of our Asian trading parters. Poor infrastructure and procedural bottlenecks also effect export adversely by increasing transaction time and cost.

(b) Government has initiated various measures to increase the competitiveness of Indian exports and to reduce the tranactional cost and time of the exports. These measures include extension of zero duty EPCG Scheme to plastic sector, textile sector and certain sub sectors of chemicals, exemption from additional customs duty under zero duty, EPCG Scheme for marine and software sector, rationlisation of EOU/EPZ scheme, recognition for export of services, electronic filing of Advance Licensing? Scheme, relaxation of restrictions on units working in export processing zones etc.